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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, CIEC, ENRG, EFIN, ETRD, EAID, OECD

SUBJECT: CIEC: OPENING OF COMMISSION MEETINGS

1. SUMMARY: OPENING DAY OF COMMISSION MEETINGS WAS CHARACTERIZED BY UNEMOTIONAL AND BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE, WHICH DISPOSED RAPIDLY OF INITIAL PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS STATUS OF OBSERVER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MOST OF DISCUSSION IN EACH OF COMMISSIONS FOCUSED ON ORGANIZATION OF WORK PROGRAMS. G-19 BY AND LARGE SHOWED FLEXIBILITY ON THIS, APPARENTLY SEEKING TO MOVE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE INTO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. FIRST DAY SHOWED VERY CONSIDERABLE EFFORT BY LDCS TO MAINTAIN UNITY AMONG THEMSELVES BY USING SMALL NUMBER OF KEY SPOKESMEN. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN ENERGY, DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS. INDUSTRIALIZED G-8 SHOWED SOMEWHAT LESS COHESIVENESS, BASED IN PART ON EC'S LIMITED MANDATE, ALTHOUGH EIGHT GENERALLY TOOK MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE POSITIONS. THE CO-CHAIRMEN BEHAVED DEFTLY AND IN MANY MATTERS WITH BEHIND-THE-SCENES COOPERATION TO HEAD OFF POSSIBLE PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES. IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO, THE COMMISSIONS WILL BE WORKING OUT AGREED WORK PROGRAMS. FOLLOWING THIS, THREE COMMISSIONS--ENERGY, RAW MATERIALS, AND FINANCE--WILL MOVE TO A DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT WORLD CONDITIONS AND TRENDS. END SUMMARY.

ENERGY COMMISSION:

2. MEETING WENT SMOOTHLY, WITH ABSENCE OF RHETORIC AND MINIMUM OF TIME SPENT ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS. UNDER LOW-KEY BUT EFFECTIVE CHAIRMANSHIP BY TAHER (SAUDI ARABIA) GROUP SKIPPED FORMAL OPENING STATEMENTS AND QUICKLY SETTLED ONLY REMAINING PROCEDURAL QUESTION: REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS BY UNCTAD, IAEA AND OECD. IRAQI DELEGATE INSISTED THAT IEA IS PART OF OECD AND THAT THEREFORE NO NEED TO GRANT ANY SORT OF OBSERVER STATUS TO LATTER ORGANIZATION. FURTHERMORE, OAPEC SHOULD BE ADDED TO OBSERVER LIST. TAHER NOTED JANUARY 26 CO-CHAIRMAN'S MEETING RECOMMENDED ONLY UN, OPEC AND IEA BE GRANTED PERMANENT STATUS AND SUGGESTED THAT, IN VIEW OF DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THIS ISSUE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ONLY FAIR SOLUTION WAS TO INVITE THREE NEW APPLICANTS TO PARTICIPATE ON AD HOC BASIS ONLY. ANY ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. THERE WAS NO DISSENT TO THIS POSITION.

3. CONCERNING WORK PROGRAM, GROUP AGREED LEAST CONTENTIOUS APPROACH WOULD BE TO AVOID TRYING TO REACH AGREEMENT ON DETAILED AGENDA, AND INSTEAD ATTEMPT AGREE

ON FEW BROAD HEADINGS UNDER WHICH ANY ITEM COULD BE
RAISED. CHAIR, PICKING UP ON IRANIAN SUGGESTION,
PROPOSED FOUR BRIEF HEADINGS: ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IN
ENERGY FIELD; PRICE; SUPPLY; AND COOPERATION BETWEEN
DC'S AND LDC'S. IRANIAN DELEGATE (YEGANEH), WHO ACTED
AS PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR G-19, NOTED THAT HEADINGS
AND SEQUENCE ARE DERIVED FROM LIST TABLED BY U.S. AT
PREPCON II (THEY ARE ALSO COORDINATED WITH IEA DRAFT
AGENDA). U.S. DEL (BOSWORTH) SUPPORTED BY REST OF DC
COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS (EC, JAPAN, SWISS, CANADA)
CONCURRED IN USEFULNESS OF FOUR HEADINGS, WITH PRECISE
WORDING TO BE WORKED OUT AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING, BUT
SUGGESTED ALTERNATE SEQUENCING - PLACING SUPPLY AND
PRICE TOPICS LAST. HE SAID THIS PREFERABLE SINCE
RESULTS OF PROBABLY LENGTHY ANALYSIS UNDER FIRST
HEADING WILL BE NEEDED FOR DISCUSSION OF LATTER TWO
TOPICS. HE NOTED U.S. PREPCON II LIST HAD NOT BEEN
INTENDED TO SIGNAL ANY PARTICULAR ORDER OF PRIORITY IN
THIS REGARD.

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4.. TAHER AND IRANIANS SUGGESTED THAT SINCE ALL DELEGATIONS APPEARED AGREE ON BROAD HEADINGS CONCEPT, GROUP SHOULD MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO DISCUSSION OF FIRST TOPIC ON LIST, SINCE SEQUENCE OF THIS POINT NOT AT ISSUE. USDEL SUGGESTED THAT IF DISCUSSION TO BE PRODUCTIVE, SOME AGREED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS WOULD BE NECESSARY. IRANIAN REP AND EC COMMISSION REP (WILLIAMS) PUT FORWARD TENTATIVE ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS IN THIS REGARD.

5. GROUP AGREED THAT TWO CO-CHAIRMEN SHOULD DEVELOP DRAFT FORMULATIONS OF FOUR HEADINGS TOPICS TO SEE IF AGREEMENT ON WORDING COULD BE REACHED SOON. QUESTION OF SEQUENCE WOULD ALSO BE ADDRESSED AGAIN, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLE CONTINUING DISAGREEMENT HERE SHOULD NOT DELAY GETTING TO WORK ON ANALYSIS TOPIC. IRAN, EC AND SWISS WILL TABLE PAPERS ON THEIR IDEAS FOR SCHEMATIC APPROACH TO ANALYSIS ITEM AT NEXT MEETING.

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

6. ALGERIAN CO-CHAIRMAN, AIT-CHALLAL GOT MEETING OFF TO BUSINESSLIKE START BY GETTING RIGHT DOWN TO PROCEDURAL

ISSUES. IT WAS DECIDED WITHOUT DISCUSSION THAT ALL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-PARTICIPATING CIEC MEMBERS WISHING TO BE OBSERVERS COULD ATTEND. PERMANENT OBSERVERS WILL BE UNSG, UNCTAD, FAO, UNIDO, GATT, IBRD, UNDP, OECD, AND SELA PLUS NON-PARTICIPATING CIEC MEMBER COUNTRIES. OBSERVING ON AN AD HOC BASIS WILL BE THE THREE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS (TO BE REPRESENTED BY ONE OF THE THREE) THE IMF/IBRD JOINT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND IMF.

7. ON BEHALF OF G-19, AIT-CHALLAL PRESENTED SCHEME FOR SETTING UP AGENDA UNDER WHICH TWO GROUPS OF SUBJECT AREAS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT TWO CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS EACH, THE FIRST FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON, AND THE SECOND TO COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS POSSIBLE. FIRST GROUP OF SUBJECT AREAS WOULD
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BE DISCUSSED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH AND SECOND GROUP IN APRIL AND JUNE. AIT-CHALLAL'S ORAL PRESENTATION OF G-19 PROPOSAL DIFFERED IN DETAIL FROM WRITTEN G-19 LIST TABLED

LATER IN WHICH IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT FIRST GROUP BE COMPOSED OF TRADE, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TRANSFER OF RESOURCES (THE BIG ISSUES). SECOND GROUP WOULD INCLUDE INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, TNC ISSUES, LDCS AND MSAS, LANDLOCKED AND ISLAND LDCS, POLLUTION, AND PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES (I.E. THE LESSEER ISSUES.)LAST TWO TOPICS IN SECOND GROUP WERE CHARACTERIZED IN ORAL PRESENTATION AS SECONDARY AND NOT FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION AND TWO PRECEDING WERE ALSO GROUPED UNDER CATCH-ALL TITLE. AIT-CHALLAL ALSO INFORMED DELEGATES THAT G-19 HAD DECIDED TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE ON EACH TOPIC. JAMAICA WAS SPOKESMAN ON AGENDA ISSUES.

8. AFTER G-19 PROPOSAL WAS TABLED, EC, CANADA, AND US MADE PRESENTATIONS FOR SETTING UP AGENDA ALONG LINES THEY HAD INDICATED AT OECD NORTH/SOUTH GROUP MEETING EARLIER IN WEEK. CANADA, US, JAPAN AND SWEDEN ALL COMMENTED THAT FINANCIAL TRANSFER ISSUES, WHICH WERE INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL G-19 AGENDA FOR FINANCE COMMISSION ONLY SHOULD

BE TAKEN UP BY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. AIT-CHALLAL TRIED TO ARGUE IN RESPONSE THAT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION SHOULD EXAMINE LDC NEEDS WHILE FINANCE COMMISSION DEFINES WAY TO MEET THEM. JAMAICAN DEL PROPOSED SUBGROUPS BE FORMED TO WORK OUT AGENDA SUBTOPICS IF G-19 PROPOSAL ACCEPTED. COMMISSION ADJOURNED AFTER TWO HOURS TO CONSIDER WRITTEN VERSIONS OF AGENDAE TABLED.

9. AT G-5 CAUCUS LATER IN DAY, ALL AGREED PACE

PROPOSED BY G-19 TOO FAST BECAUSE IT PRESUPPOSED CONCRETE
ACTIONS BEFORE UNCTAD IV AND CONDENSED COMMISSION WORK
INTO FIRST HALF OF YEAR. IT WAS AGREED THAT ON SECOND
DAY CANADA, US, AND EC WOULD EACH DEFEND THEIR OWN
PROPOSALS BUT THAT ALL FIVE WOULD INCLUDE COMMON ELEMENTS
IN THEIR COMMENTS ON G-19 PROPOSAL: THAT PACE G-19
SUGGESTS IS TOO FAST; THAT THERE WERE DISCREPANCIES
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BETWEEN ORAL AND WRITTEN G-19 PROPOSAL WHICH SHOULD BE
RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS; (A) B/P ISSUES SHOULD BE SEPARATE
TOPIC AS IN WRITTEN LIST; (B) MSA ISSUES SHOULD BE TAKEN
UP BOTH AS SEPARATE TOPIC AND AS ELEMENT OF MANY PROBLEMS AND

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(C) POLLUTION AND SOVEREIGNTY ISSUES SHOULD BE DROPPED.

10. MAIN ISSUE JOINED, THEREFORE, IS NOT SO MUCH LIST OF TOPICS OR THEIR RANKING (ON WHICH ALL PROPOSALS QUITE CLOSE) BUT PACE OF WORK BEFORE UNCTAD IV. G-19 WANTS TO BUILD IN DECISION POINTS THAT CREATE A PRE-NEGOTIATION OF KEY ISSUES, PARTICULARLY TRADE, BEFORE UNCTAD IV. G-5 IS RESISTING THIS IN A VARIETY OF TACTICAL PLOYS. NEVERTHELESS, CONSIDERATION OF PROCEDURAL ISSUES HAS MOVED BRISKLY, AND TO SATISFACTION OF G-19. MAIN DRAG ON PROGRESS IS EC'S DILEMMA OF SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE WHEN IT HAS NO POSITION, EVEN ON MANY FINE POINTS OF PROCEDURE.

FINANCE COMMISSION (FC)

1. COMMISSION PROCEEDED QUICKLY THROUGH PROCEDURAL MATTERS. CO-CHAIRMEN (YEGANEH IN CHAIR ON FIRST DAY) INDICATED THEY WOULD CHAIR ON CONSECUTIVE BASIS. UN SECRETARIAT, UNCTAD, IBRD, IMF, SELA, OECD WERE ACCORDED PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS. INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (WITH INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ACTING AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THREE BANKS) AND UNDP WERE GIVEN AD HOC OBSERVER STATUS.

L2. RAPID CONSENSUS WAS REACHED THAT FC WOULD FIRST UNDERTAKE A GENERAL SURVEY OF WORLD FINANCIAL SITUATION (WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROBLEMS). SPEED WITH WHICH THIS CONSENSUS WAS REACHED APPEARED TO RESULT FROM PREPARATORY WORK BY CO-CHAIRMEN DONDELINGER AND YEGANEH, AND INDICATED AGAIN DESIRE OF BOTH DONDELINGER AND YEGANEH TO BE ESPECIALLY ACTIVE AS CO-CHAIRMEN IN REACHING AGREED POSITIONS PRIOR TO AND AFTER PLENARY FC MEETINGS.

1. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE WELL-ORCHESTRATED FOLLOW-UP
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TO QUICK "GENERAL SURVEY" CONSENSUS, G-19 MEMBERS OF FC INDICATED THEY WISHED TO ESTABLISH AN AGENDA FOR FC BEYOND FIRST GENERAL ECONOMIC SURVEY ITEM. MEXICAN DEL WISHED TO UTILIZE ORIGINAL G-19 LIST AS BASIS. SAUDI ARABIAN DEL SUGGESTED MORE GENERAL LIST OF TOPICS. IN SUM, IT BECAME RAPIDLY EVIDENT THAT G-19 DID NOT WANT AN "OPEN-ENDED" AGENDA, BUT WISHED TO ESTABLISH A LIST OF ITEMS FOR WORK PROGRAM OF FC BEYOND FIRST GENERAL ECONOMIC SURVEY.

1. YEGANEH SAID COMMISSION COULD USE CONTRIBUTIONS BY OBSERVER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO GENERAL SURVEY ITEM. ALTHOUGH IMF, IBRD, OECD OBSERVERS INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO HELP, NONE WAS ABLE TO PROMISE IMMEDIATE NEW DOCUMENTATION. HOWEVER, UNCTAD REP SAID TWO PAPERS (ONE ON WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WITH BOP EMPHASIS IN 1976-77; OTHER ON CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS OF LDC'S 1976-80) COULD BE READY VERY SOON.

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15. MAJOR QUESTIONS REMAINING (BOTH BETWEEN TWO CO-CHAIRMEN, AND IN G-8 CAUCUS MORNING OF FEB. 12 AND IN FC PLENARY) REVOLVE BASICALLY AROUND TWO ISSUES: (A) WHAT FORM THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SURVEY WILL TAKE, AND WHO WILL DO THE WORK; (B) WHAT ITEMS OF GENERAL NATURE WILL APPEAR ON WORK PROGRAM BEYOND GENERAL ECONOMIC SURVEY.

16. RAW MATERIALS COMMISSION: FIRST SESSION OF RAW

MATERIALS COMMISSION (CORM) GOT OFF TO AMIABLE START UNDER SKILLFUL LEADERSHIP OF JAPANESE CO-CHAIRMAN MIYAZAKI. ON QUESTION OF PERMANENT OBSERVERS, CORM QUICKLY AGREED TO ACCEPT LIST WORKED OUT BY CO-CHAIRMAN JAN. 26-27 (OECD, UN, UNCTAD, GATT, FAO, SELA) AND ADDED IMF. ZAMBIAN REQUEST THAT CIPEC BE INVITED AS AD HOC OBSERVER WAS SUPPORTED BY PERU, ZAIRE, ARGENTINA, INDONESIA, AND AUSTRALIA, THOUGH ALL IN END ACCEPTED IN SISTENT EC VIEW THAT FORMAL INVITATION SHOULD NOT BE DECIDED UPON UNTIL QUESTION OF COPPER WAS TAKEN UP BY GROUP.

17 GROUP HAD FIRST EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON WORK PROGRAM BEFORE BREAKING TO ALLOW INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AIMED AT COMING UP WITH AGREED LIST OF DISCUSSIONS TOPICS. LDC'S GENERALLY SPOKE AS BLOC THROUGH PERUVIAN CO-CHAIRMAN DE LA PUENTE, WHO WAS MODERATE AND CONCILIATORY BUT NUMBER OF LDC DELS (MEXICO, ARGENTINA, ZAIRE, YUGOLSAVIA) PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSION AT SOME POINT. FIVE DC'S SPOKE INDEPENDENTLY (US PROPOSAL FOR UNIFIED APPROACH AT MORNING'S G-5, SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIA, WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO EC.) MAIN TASK FOR NEXT MEETING IS DEVELOPING NEUTRALLY WORDED NON-EXCLUSIVE LIST OF DISCUSSION TOPICS IN FACE OF SOME LDC PRESSURE TO USE G-19 LIST AS STARTING POINT. ALL DELS AGREE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF GENERAL TRENDS IN COMMODITY MARKETS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP AS SOON AS WORK PROGRAM AGREED.

1.. BUSINESSLIKE DISCUSSION OF WORK PROGRAM CENTERED ON G-19 LIST NOTED BY CO-CHAIRMEN JAN. 26, WHICH PERU PUT FORWARD AS LDC PROPOSAL. UNEXPECTED ELEMENT IN DE LA CONFIDENTIAL

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PUENTE'S PRESENTATION WAS STATEMENT THAT G-19 DID NOT WISH TO IMPOSE "INTEGRATED PROGRAM" UPON DC'S BUT CONSIDERED THAT IT CONTAINED INTERESTING ELEMENTS WHICH COULD LEAD TO A COMMON APPROACH. US, EC, AUSTRALIA, SPAIN, JAPAN ALL MADE CASE FOR MORE NEUTRAL, BALANCED, AND GENERAL NON-EXCLUSIVE LIST OF TOPICS, POINTING OUT NEED TO AVOID PREJUDGING OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS. ALTHOUGH YUGOSLAVIA AND ARGENTINA TOOK RATHER UNCOMPROMISING STAND, PERU AND ZAIRE ADMITTED G-19 LIST WAS STATEMENT OF THEIR POSITION RATHER THAN NEUTRAL PROPOSAL FOR WORK PROGRAM AND GROUP AGREED WITH CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION TO HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON POSSIBILITY OF AGREED LIST DURING PERIOD BEFORE THURSDAY MEETING. AFTER MEETING US AND EC EXCHANGED LISTS OF TOPICS AND G-5 WILL TRY TO WORK OUT COMMON APPROACH TO WORK PROGRAM MORNING OF FEB. 12.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OECDP04468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760054-0315
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 548
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIEC: OPENING OF COMMISSION MEETINGS
TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, EFIN, ETRD, EAID, OECD, CIEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006